SPOTLIGHT
on transformation

Issue 21 • October 2010

Details of 2010 Ontario Budget unveiled

$48 million boost for people with a developmental disability in urgent need

We have new information to share with you about the funding that was set aside in the 2010 Ontario Budget for developmental services.

The Budget included $36.3 million for critical support and services for people with a developmental disability who have urgent support needs. Of this total, $23.8 million is earmarked to provide stable funding for people who were in service as of March 31, 2010, and $12.5 million is for supports and services for people on waitlists in urgent need in 2010-11, including young adults coming from the child welfare system.

We are pleased to tell you that we have more good news. The government has committed an additional $12.5 million in 2011-12 to maintain these supports and services on a full-year basis. That will bring the government's total annual new funding commitment to $48.8 million.

Of the money for people on waitlists who have urgent support needs, $3 million is for Passport. As with all this year's new service funding, the focus is on helping people in urgent need and is meant to help them avoid needing more intensive, costly supports. Passport is a good example of how to meet people's needs in a way that helps them live at home, encourages independence and in some situations, prevents the need for more intensive support such as residential care.

The new funding means 260 more young adults will be able to take part in activities that reflect their interests and strengths.

The government has steadily increased Passport funding year after year since 2005. This latest commitment will bring the government's yearly Passport investment to $33 million for more than 2,700 young adults.

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Q&A

Q: When will the funds flow to agencies?

A: Some of this funding is for people already receiving supports and services. Local planning processes will provide advice about the use of the remaining funds for people on waitlists with urgent needs who will be coming into service. Agencies that provide supports and services will then receive funding when service contracts are in place.

Q: Who qualifies as a person with urgent support needs?

A: People with a developmental disability who have urgent support needs are people who may be:

- reaching adulthood and can no longer receive services from the child welfare system
- can no longer be cared for by their aging parents
- have complex and specialized service needs, such as extreme behaviour challenges, or
- are medically fragile.

PASSPORT

The Passport program helps young adults with a developmental disability who have left school find more ways to participate in their communities. Passport:

- eases the transition from school to life as an adult in the community
- encourages independence
- builds social, emotional and community participation skills, and
- promotes continuing education and personal development.

Through Passport, people can receive funding for activities that help them:

- grow personally
- use community programs
- develop work and volunteer skills
- join local clubs, and
- reach their goals.

Participants can choose to:

- receive Passport money directly so they can purchase their own supports and services
- get supports and services through community-based agencies, or
- get supports and services through a combination of both.

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